

Appl. No. : 10/811,784
Filed : March 29, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed January 14, 2005 and the personal interview on May 5, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments. As a result of the amendments listed above, Claims 1, 5, 6, and 10 remain pending. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 2-4 and 7-9 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claims 11-21 have been added.

In the changes made by the current amendment, ~~deletions are shown by strikethrough~~, and additions are underlined.

Claim Objections

Claims 6-10 presently are objected to because of an informality in Claim 6, which was noted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that the informality has been corrected by the present amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the present objection is respectfully requested.

A Terminal Disclaimer Is Filed Herewith To Obviate The Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-10 presently stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-70 of U.S. Patent No. 6,267,400 and Claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,722,678. Applicant has filed herewith a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6 Have Been Amended

Claims 1-10 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Isono et al. Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 as discussed during the personal interview between the Examiner and Applicant's counsel on May 5, 2005, which the Examiner agreed would be allowable over Isono et al. and the other prior art of record. Claim 6 has been amended to include limitations similar to the limitations of Claim 1 and is allowable for at least similar reasons as discussed during the interview. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the present rejection of Claims 1 and 6.

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Claims 2-4 and 7-9 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 5 depends from allowable Claim 1 and Claim 10 depends from allowable Claim 6. Claims 5 and 10 are allowable, not only because they depend from an allowable claim, but upon their own merit as well. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the present rejection of Claims 5 and 10.

New Claims 11-21 Have Been Added

New Claims 11-21 have been added and are fully supported by the application as filed. Of these, Claims 11, 16 and 21 are independent and were presented to the Examiner during the May 5, 2005 personal interview. The Examiner agreed that these claims would define over the prior art of record. Consideration and allowance of Claims 11-21 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

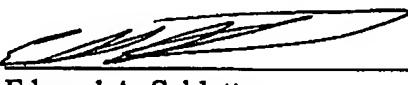
The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney, Edward A. Schlatter at (949) 721-2821 (direct line), to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: May 13, 2005

By: 

Edward A. Schlatter
Registration No. 32,297
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

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